

Application No.: 10/800580
Response dated: July 18, 2007
Reply to Office action of April 18, 2007

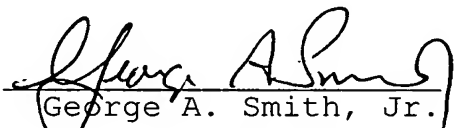
batts (Legge, column 4, lines 46-49). In both cases, however, nylon is preferred because of its heat setting capability and heat-set properties that are important for dimensional size control (Legge, column 3, lines 43-47), and for its superior abrasion resistance in the case of the fibrous batts (Legge, column 4, lines 52-53).

In expressing a preference for nylon over wool, cotton, and the other non-nylon fibers, Legge essentially says that, although these other materials can be used, nylon is better because it has better size control. Legge contains no mention of the hydrophilic properties of wool, cotton, etc., nor does Legge mention their relative hydrophilicity.

In short, Legge is primarily concerned about size control and abrasion resistance, and teaches nothing about the problems of attachment and transfer of a wet paper web to and from a transfer belt. There is no basis in Legge for a person having ordinary skill in the art to select wool, cotton, vinylon or rayon instead of nylon in a wet paper web conveyance belt of the kind described in Japanese reference.

Accordingly, we respectfully submit that claim 1 should be found to define non-obvious subject matter and allowed.

Respectfully submitted,
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